There are 3 Pre3 models:

1. Europe Pre3 unlocked model - will work on T-Mobile USA (make sure you get the QWERTY keyboard UK model, not QWERTZ Germany or AZERTY France models)

2. AT&T Pre3 model (locked or previously unlocked) - only unlocked model or locked model with valid unlock code will work on T-Mobile USA (better to get Europe Pre3 unlocked model as it is factory unlocked so you know it will work)

3. Verizon Pre3 model (CDMA) - will not work on T-Mobile USA as T-Mobile uses GSM not CDMA networks

As Johnsonx42 says, using a Pre3 on T-Mobile USA only allows 2.5G EDGE data speeds, not the faster 3G/4G speeds you would get with a Pre3 on AT&T. So running a Pre3 on T-Mobile is best for non-heavy data usage.

Definitely get the Pre3 while they last, it's the best webOS phone ever made.

Verizon Pre3 is CDMA+GSM. It could work on T-Mobile but I don't think anyone has had much luck unlocking it for a non Verizon SIM card. Plus they're expensive.

I recommend an AT&T Pre3 for T-Mobile. Just make sure its unlocked by the seller and/or comes with the unlock code. I got my second AT&T Pre3 shipped for under $200.
Right, the Verizon Pre3 is a world phone with CDMA+GSM. But practically, no one would want to spend over double for the Verizon Pre3 (over the Europe or AT&T Pre3) to end up running it on AT&T or T-Mobile networks. And if you could unlock the Verizon Pre3 GSM side, it only has the 900 and 2100 MHz UMTS bands which are not used in the USA (you need the 850 or 1900 bands for AT&T and both 1700 and 2100 AWS bands on T-Mobile) so it would not be 3G/4G compatible on T-Mobile.

I still prefer the Europe factory unlocked Pre3's as it is guaranteed they are unlocked. A lot of the AT&T Pre3's for sale say they are unlocked but aren't or the unlock code supplied is invalid, and they come with AT&T pre-populated apps, contacts, and logos you don't want. The AT&T Pre3 is not supported by HP either as it was never officially released, while the Europe Pre3 is supported as it was officially released. One thing better about the AT&T Pre3 is it has double the storage 16GB than the 8GB Europe Pre3, but I'm not even close to using the 8GB, it depends on your needs.

But you are right, either the AT&T or Europe Pre3 prices are low now for such a great phone. I would buy them soon as HP is no longer making or selling them.

I picked up a factory unlocked UK model from ebay and it works fine on Tmobile. I only get Edge data though...no 3G.

to elaborate on what pre4 said, there is simply no choice if all you are looking for is raw data speed. The Pre 3 doesn't support the 1700 MHz AWS band that T-Mobile uses for their "4G" data, so you are effectively capped at EDGE. At least on AT&T you get to make full use of their HSPA network. Make sure you get an AT&T Pre 3 though as the difference between it and the EU version is having the North American 850 MHz band instead of the European/rest of the worldly 900 MHz band. An EU Pre 3 would potentially only have access to "half" the network (or two thirds...).

How good AT&T is in your neck of the woods could be highly variable, but it should at least give you more potential than T-Mobile, which gives you nothing but EDGE.

The 2100 MHz band (downlink around 2100 MHz and uplink around 1900 MHz) allocated for UMTS in Europe and most of Asia is already used in North America. The 1900 MHz range is used for 2G (PCS) services, and 2100 MHz range is used for satellite communications. Regulators have, however, freed up some of the 2100 MHz range for 3G services, together with a different range around 1700 MHz for the uplink. UMTS operators in North America who want to implement a European-Asian style 2100/1900 MHz system will have to share spectrum with existing 2G services in the 1900 MHz band.

AT&T Wireless launched UMTS services in the United States by the end of 2004 strictly using the existing 1900 MHz spectrum allocated for 2G PCS services. Cingular acquired AT&T Wireless in 2004 and has since then launched UMTS in select US cities. Cingular renamed itself AT&T and is rolling out some cities with a UMTS network at 850 MHz to enhance its existing UMTS network at 1900 MHz and now offers subscribers a number of dual-band UMTS 850/1900 phones.

T-Mobile's rollout of UMTS in the US will focus on the 2100/1700 MHz band.

In Canada, UMTS coverage is being provided on the 850 MHz and 1900 MHz bands on the Rogers and Bell-Telus networks. Bell and Telus share the network. Recently, new providers Wind Mobile, Mobilicity and Videotron have begun operations in the 2100/1700 MHz band.

In 2008, Australian telco Telstra replaced its existing CDMA network with a national 3G network, branded as NextG, operating in the 850 MHz band. Telstra currently provides UMTS service on this network, and also on the 2100 MHz UMTS network, through a co-ownership of the owning and administrating company 3GIS. This company is also co-owned by Hutchison 3G Australia, and this is the primary network used by their customers. Optus is currently rolling out a 3G network operating on the 2100 MHz band in cities and most large towns, and the 900 MHz band in regional areas. Vodafone is also building a 3G network using the 900 MHz band.

In India BSNL has started its 3G services since October 2009 beginning with the larger cities and then expanding over to smaller cities. The 850 MHz and 900 MHz bands provide greater coverage compared to equivalent 1700/1900/2100 MHz networks, and are best suited to regional areas where greater distances separate subscriber and base station.

Carriers in South America are now also rolling out 850 MHz networks.

Radio frequency spectrum chart

The following chart describes radio frequency spectrum bands accessible by the company's customers using compatible devices.

Radio frequency spectrum bands accessible by T-Mobile USA customers using compatible devices

Frequency Band	Protocol	Class	Spectrum Purchased	Service Began	Notes
850 MHz	GSM/GPRS/ EDGE	2G	n/a	1996	Not operated by T-Mobile. Competitor networks accessible via roaming agreements
1900 MHz	GSM/GPRS/ EDGE	2G	1994	1996	Based on original VoiceStream Wireless GSM PCS network
1700 MHz/2100 MHz	UMTS (W-CDMA)/HSPA	4G (formerly 3G[31])	2006	2008 (3G), 2010 (Marketed as 4G)	First carrier in the U.S. to deploy services on AWS frequencies. Markets HSPA+ as "4G". UMTS

Radio frequency spectrum bands accessible by T-Mobile USA customers using compatible devices

Frequency Band	Protocol	Class	Spectrum Purchased	Service Began	Notes
					band IV

B94HHF30CN: Quad-band GSM 850/900/1800/1900, Tri-band UMTS 850/1900/2100
B94HHF30CE: Quad-band GSM 850/900/1800/1900, Tri-band UMTS 900/1900/2100

I hope you are right about the B94HHF30CE being a Quad-band GSM 850/900/1800/1900, Tri-band UMTS 900/1900/2100 device!

Based on the different pricing we've seen lately for EU devices, if the CE is being manufactured specifically for the European, South American, and Asian markets, it may cost more than the CN model which is clearly designed to be marketed in North America.

I can show you several that have model names that end in E and they are not for Europe. There are several that end in V that are not on Verizon. There are several that end in S that are not on Sprint etc.
It does not correspond. And if you have an example here or there where it does it is simply the odds. I'll be glad to get all of my phones and all my friends and post a nice little collage to prove it if you'd like. Please stop perpetuating this misconception - it only leads to confusion for those that don't know any better.

This particular model may very well be for Europe for a number of legitimate reasons listed on the spec sheet but the E at the end of the model name is not one of them.

Let's consider the latest GSM Pre 3's FCC ID: B94HHF30CE

All of HP's FCC ID's will start with "B94". This is HP's manufacturer code.

The next two letters indicate the type of device. "HH" stands for "Hand Held." Other types include "BO" for "circuit BOard" and "BCM" for "Broadcom Module." They seem to occasionally take a bit of liberty with this part of the naming convention.

The next letter indicated which manufacturer built the device for HP.

I- Inventec, Taiwan
P - Pegatron, Taiwan
F - Foxconn, China

So we know the Pre 3 is made by Foxconn in China, while the TouchPad (B94HHI29C) is made by Inventec in Taiwan.

The numbers following the manufacturing facility letter indicate the sequential number of the FCC filing. The TouchPad is 29, and the Pre 3 is 30.

After this is the letter "C." No idea what it stands for, but seems to be present in most of HP's filings.

The final letter--if present--indicates that a cellular radio is present, and tells you what market it is for. Note that since the TouchPad does not have a cellular radio, it does not have this final character, and ends with the C.

If the cellular radio is a CDMA radio, the final letter will indicate which carrier it is for. If the cellular radio is a GSM radio, the final letter will indicate which region the radio is intended to operate in.

So far, we have seen:

V - Verizon (CDMA)
N - North Ameria (GSM)
E - Europe (GSM)